

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re U.S. Patent Application of  
KUROKAWA et al.  
Application Number: To be Assigned  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith  
For: STORAGE SYSTEM WITH A DATA SORT  
FUNCTION  
Atty Docket No. WILL.0003**

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above identified application as follows: